

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GROUP

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Volume II

The International Week

As the UN General Assembly meets in the shadow of the signing of the Atlantic Pact, the session appears likely to be dominated by Soviet charges that formation of the Pact is an aggressive action undermining the UN. Signature of the Pact itself represents a new step in the US-supported effort to build up a Western European security bloc. Australia and India took the initiative in placing the Indonesian dispute before the GA while Dutch-Republican talks remained stalemated pending the arrival in Batavia of Netherlands delegate Van Roijen. Meanwhile the Israeli-Transjordan armistice marks virtual completion of the phase of military stabilization in Palestine.

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Dismantling and PRI agreements reached. The recently concluded US-UK-French agreements on the Humphrey Report and the list of Prohibited and Restricted Industries (PRI) represent a significant step toward a unified German policy. The agreements provide for the retention in Germany of approximately one hundred and fifty plants originally scheduled for dismantling and for reduction in the number of industries which shall be prohibited or subject to fixed production ceilings. The main issues involved were French concern about security from future German aggression and British fear of future German industrial competition, as opposed to the US desire to utilize existing German productive capacity for European recovery. Settlement of these long-standing issues should smooth the way for Western agreement on the two other outstanding German problems -- trizonal fusion and the occupation statute -- and foster an integrated US-UK-French policy toward Germany. As further indications of Western consolidation in the face of Soviet intransigence, the dismantling and PRI agreements will undoubtedly disturb the USSR and will be denounced as concrete steps to augment the war potential of the "aggressive" Atlantic Pact coalition.

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Prospects for IRO continuation. The IRO General Council, now meeting in Geneva, will probably urge continuation of the International Refugee Organization beyond the present June 1950 deadline. Although Belgium and some of the smaller European members would prefer to keep the original deadline in order to curtail further financial drains, the US, UK and France are well aware that the 700,000 DP's still in their zones of occupation in Germany and Austria cannot be resettled by that date. France, concerned about the steady influx of political refugees from the occupied zones and the satellites, will probably support continuation. While the UK may produce an alternative plan of its own, it, too, will probably favor extending IRO.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

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AEC impasse continues. Five members of the Atomic Energy Commission -- the UK, US, China, France and Canada -- have again reached the conclusion that the USSR is deliberately prolonging AEC meetings for propaganda ends with no intention of participating constructively in the negotiations. The five have therefore decided to prepare a report for the fourth GA session next September stating that the AEC deadlock still continues and again assigning the blame to the USSR.

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GA DEVELOPMENTS

Indonesia to be debated in GA. The Australian-Indian move to place the Indonesian dispute before the GA is designed to put pressure on the Dutch by once again bringing the situation into the limelight. There will undoubtedly be widespread sentiment for admitting this item to the agenda since the Asiatic states are strongly antagonistic to the Netherlands position. The item's sponsors apparently intend to let it remain at the bottom of the agenda where it would not come up until the end of the session, if at all. This would permit the adoption of a less critical attitude toward the Dutch should their adamant stand against restoration of the Republic to Jogjakarta or other attitudes of non-compliance with Security Council instructions be modified prior to GA consideration of the question. Moreover, under Article 12 of the UN Charter, so long as the Security Council remains seized of this dispute the GA may merely discuss it and can not make any recommendation unless the SC so requests.

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India to press question of Indians in South Africa. India's continued determination to take a strong position in the GA on discrimination against Indians in South Africa is indicated by two recent developments. Nehru devoted a substantial portion of his 22 March foreign affairs address to the question of racial discrimination, using as an illustration the treatment of Indians in South Africa. The likelihood that Mrs. Pandit will head the Indian delegation during GA consideration of the South Africa item further emphasizes the concern with which India continues to view this question.

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Italian colonies. Sentiment for a multi-power trusteeship over Tripolitania is spreading, with Brazil, Argentina and India specifically coming out in favor of this formula. Such a solution -- which apparently envisages

- 2 -

participation by the US, Italy, France, the UK and an Arab state -- would at least give some satisfaction to the claims of both the Italians and the local population as well as to the Arab states and would thus have substantial appeal. However, pro-Italian UN members will most likely make an effort to extend any such multilateral arrangement to include all of Libya. Sixteen Latin American nations have already agreed to support Italian trusteeship over Tripolitania, Eritrea and Somaliland. Concerned over the proposed cession of most of Eritrea to Ethiopia, they decided that, if Italian trusteeship is unobtainable, they will propose postponing any decision on this colony pending a report from a GA investigating commission.

Spanish case in the UN. Colombia and Brazil appear determined to propose lifting the ban on Ambassadors in Madrid despite the fact that the Western European states and even some Latin American nations are not anxious to see the question discussed at this GA meeting. If, as has been reported, Poland seeks to withdraw its proposal to strengthen UN action against Spain, the GA will have to determine by majority vote whether or not to acquiesce. If the Polish item were dropped, Brazil and Colombia would be unable to present their resolution without proposing a new agenda item. There is general agreement that the 1946 resolution has been ineffective and, although no approbation of the Franco regime is intended, sufficient votes could be secured for its modification this spring.

Discussion of any revision now will, however, place the Western Powers at a decided propaganda disadvantage. That the USSR may be well aware of this fact is indicated by the reported Soviet-inspired Polish move to withdraw its proposal. Possible Soviet motives for dropping the item are to (1) reduce the number of agenda items to permit Soviet concentration on the Atlantic Pact; (2) place the US behind any initiative for revision and link the move to Spanish participation in the AP; and (3) maintain the status quo in order to avoid a closer relationship between Spain and the West. If Brazilian insistence on revision at the April GA is not abandoned, Soviet bloc opportunities for making political capital against the Atlantic Pact will be greatly increased.

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End of the Military Phase in Palestine

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Conclusion of the Israeli-Transjordan armistice on 4 April marks the completion of the phase of military stabilization in Palestine. In little more than a month's time, Israel has concluded armistices with Egypt, Lebanon and Transjordan, while two other Arab states, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, have withdrawn from the field. By the terms of the Transjordan armistice, the Arab Legion will take over the Iraqi sector in central Palestine. Moreover, despite the recent Syrian coup, the outlook for an early armistice with Syria is good. The same pattern was followed in each of the crucial controversies -- first with Egypt and then with Transjordan -- which ended in armistice negotiations. In each case, Israel swiftly seized key areas which it claimed and confronted the Arabs with fait accompli accompanied by blunt threats of further attacks on remaining Arab-held territory unless the Arabs promptly acquiesced. Egypt and Transjordan, faced with clearcut Israeli military superiority and painfully aware that they could rely on neither the UN nor the Big Powers, were forced to yield. The resulting military line, which will probably determine in large measure the ultimate frontier, leaves Israel in firm control of most of Palestine.

The next round in the Palestine controversy will most likely be negotiations under the auspices of the Palestine Conciliation Commission to convert the armistice into a permanent peace settlement. In this phase the PCC is certain to run into serious snags over three major issues: (1) provision for the Arab refugees; (2) the status of Jerusalem; and (3) final delimitation of frontiers. The critical factor in all three cases will be the extent of Israeli willingness to compromise. It is certain that the Israelis, flushed with victory, are not going to yield on any of these points without a hard struggle. They will refuse to permit more than a token number of Arabs to return to Israel. They are certain to cling tenaciously to New Jerusalem, to which they plan to move several ministries and which they regard as the spiritual capital of Jewry. Finally, they are prepared at best to make only slight territorial concessions in order to retain other areas which they feel they won in the age-old arbitrament of war. Only vigorous pressure by the US and the UN will induce the Israelis to make any substantial compensation along these lines. In particular, the US is unlikely to be able to induce Israel to apply the Presidential formula that it give compensation for additional territories ceded to it beyond the UN partition plan or its equivalent. Should the US fail to make good on its assurances to the Arabs, it will suffer some loss of prestige throughout the Middle East.